Reviewer's report

**Title:** Are concomitant treatments confounding factors in randomized controlled trials on intensive blood-glucose control in type 2 diabetes? A systematic review

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 1 April 2013

**Reviewer:** Matteo Monami

**Reviewer's report:**

The paper is well-written and the issue raised from the authors has an important impact in the evaluation of RCTs. In fact, concomitant treatments could affect the results even of well-designed and placebo-controlled trials, such as the ACCORD and ADVANCE trials. It is of interest to note that the use of statins, antiaggregants/coagulants, and ACEi is not balanced in the two arms (as reported in Table 2), possibly affecting the negative or positive results obtained.

- **Discretionary Revisions**
  I suggest the authors to better specify (briefly) the selection criteria of RCTs in the method section, without referring to a previous work (ref 14).

- **Minor Essential Revisions**
  Results: “Only two (25%) of them specified concomitant treatments, but they did not publish data the five therapeutic classes”. This sentence is rather obscure to me, please rephrase.

  Tables: please provide a subtitle for both the two tables for better clarity.

- **Major Compulsory Revisions**
  No major revisions.

Once you have done this, there are also some questions for you to answer, including one that asks your advice on publication. Please remember that it is journal policy to publish work deemed by peer reviewers to be a coherent and sound addition to scientific knowledge and to put less emphasis on interest levels, provided that the research constitutes a useful contribution to the field. Further guidance on these points follows.

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**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'